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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full

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ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 12065: GDS 5/9/86 (FRIEDMAN, TOWNSEND B.) OR-P

TAGS: SHUM AR

SUBJECT: (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - MAY 3-9, 1980

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3695

[REDACTED] SUMMARY: A FULL TEXT OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT'S
REPLY TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
IS AVAILABLE HERE AFTER RELEASE THIS WEEK--BUT NOT THE REPORT

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TSELF. JOURNALISTS CORNERED ARGENTINE ADMIRAL CHAMORRO AND
OT A "DAGMAR HAGELIN WAS A TERRORIST" RESPONSE; NOW THE

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SWEDES ARE PUTTING THIS TOGETHER WITH A "WE NEVER HEARD OF THE GIRL" RESPONSE GIVEN BY PRESIDENT VIDELA. A PEN PRISONER BURNED HIMSELF TO DEATH IN HIS CELL. THE POLITICAL DIALOGUE GOES ON, BUT IT'S STILL AN UNCERTAIN PREOCESS FOR PERONISTS. IN CORDOBA POLICE FORCE MEMBERS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A BOMBING AND SHOOT-UP CAMPAIGN TO PROTEST LOW WAGES. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) GOVERNMENT RELEASES ITS RESPONSE TO IAHRC: THIS WEEK THE GOA GAVE THE PRESS ITS RESPONSE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS--WHICH DUTIFULLY PUBLISHED IT IN GREATER OR LESSER DETAIL. EARLIER IN THE WEEK THE OAS IN WASHINGTON HAD RELEASED THE GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT. THE GOA EVIDENTLY NOW FEELS IT HAS MADE ITS CASE TO THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC THAT THE IAHRC REPORT WAS UNFAIR, INACCURATE AND BIASED. THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC STILL HAS NO WAY TO JUDGE THAT ASSERTION SINCE THE IAHRC REPORT IS VIRTUALLY UNAVAILABLE HERE, THOUGH COPIES ARE IN THE HANDS OF SOME HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS. TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION, THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS HAS ASKED THE GOA TO PUBLISH THE IAHRC REPORT--A PETITION THAT WE EXPECT WILL NOT BE GRANTED.

3. (U) SWEDES HARRY GOA: SWEDISH JOURNALISTS HAVE TRACKED TO SOUTH AFRICA THE NAVY OFFICER WHO ALLEGEDLY SHOT AND WOUNDED DAGMAR HAGELIN. THE OFFICER, LT. ALFREDO AZTIS, IS SERVING IN THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY THERE. ACCORDING TO A PRESS ACCOUNT GIVEN US BY THE SWEDISH EMBASSY, AN ENTERPRISING REPORTER IN SOUTH AFRICA, UNABLE TO FIND AZTIS, SPOKE TO ADMIRAL RUBEN CHAMORRO, THE ARGENTINE NAVAL ATTACHE THERE. CHAMORRO STATED
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THAT HAGELIN WAS A "TERRORIST" AND THAT HER CASE IS BEING EXPLOITED BY AN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARGENTINA.

4. [REDACTED] CHAMORRO WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE NAVAL MECHANICS SCHOOL (ESMA) WHERE HAGELIN WAS ALLEGEDLY HELD, BUT WE BELIEVE HE ASSUMED THIS COMMAND AFTER HAGELIN WAS SEIZED. UNDER HIS TENURE THE ESMA REMAINED THE ARGENTINE NAVY'S MAJOR DETENTION AND INTER-ROGATION CENTER AND THE LAST STOP FOR MANY OF THE DISAPPEARED.

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5. [REDACTED] AZTIS' CURRENT NOTORIETY MUST SEND CHILLS THROUGHT OTHER ARGENTINE MILITARY MEN WHO FEAR AN EVENTUAL NUREMBERG IN ARGENTINA. THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, WE ARE TOLD, IS PLOTTING ITS NEXT MOVE--WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE AN OFFICIAL INQUIRY HOW IS IS POSSIBLE THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA SHOULD WRITE THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THAT THE GOA HAS NO INFORMATION ON DAGMAR HAGELIN WHILE ANOTHER OFFICIAL OF THE GOA APPEARS TO HAVE HARD DATA CONFIRMING THE CASE.

6. (U) PRISON SUICIDE: MIGUEL NORBERTO VIVANCO, A PEN PRISONER AT LA PLATA PRISON IMMOLATED HIMSELF LAST WEEK. VIVANCO REORTEDLY WAS DEPRESSED, HAD HAD NO VISITORS IN OVER FOUR YEARS AND RECEIVED VERY LITTLE MAIL. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, SHORTLY BEFORE HE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED UP FROM RAWSON PRISON.

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7. [REDACTED] THE DIALOGUE AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES:

INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY MET THIS WEEK WITH TWO PROMINENT POLITICAL LEADERS AS PART OF THE ON-GOING DIALOGUE: RICARDO BALBIN HEAD OF THE RADICAL PARTY AND FRANCISCO MANRIQUE, HEAD OF THE FEDERALISTS. THESE ARE THE TWO LARGEST POLITICAL FISH TO WASH THROUGH THE MINISTER'S OFFICE SINCE THE DIALOGUE GOT UNDER WAY. THE PARTICIPATION OF BALBIN AND MANRIQUE IN THE DIALOGUE GIVES IT THE

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APPEARANCE OF SIGNIFICANCE IT HAS HITHERTO LACKED. THE PERONISTS ARE THE ONE MAJOR GROUP THAT HAS BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE DIALOGUE. THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO TOLERATE A LEVEL OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY FROM THIS GROUP---INCLUDING MODEST GATHERINGS AND STRONG ANTI-GOVERNMENT DECLARATIONS. BUT EVEN HERE THERE IS INCONSISTENCY: THE POLICE PREVENTED A DINNER IN HONOR OF RECENTLY FREED LABOR LEADER LORENZO MIGUEL ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT WAS POLITICAL AND TWO PERONIST LEADERS WERE BRIEFLY LOCKED UP IN CORDOBA FOR CARRYING OUT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

3. (U) QUIS CUSTODIET IMPOS CUSTODES?: A NUMBER OF BOMBS WENT OFF IN CORDOBA THIS WEEK AND SEVERAL SHOTS WERE PUMPED INTO POLICE HEADQUARTERS. THOUGH THERE WAS SOME PROPERTY DAMAGE, NOBODY WAS HURT. AN ANONYMOUS CALLER TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE LOCAL POLICE HAD CARRIED OUT THE ACTIONS IN PROTEST OVER LOW WAGES. THE POLICE CHIEF DENIED THE ALLEGATION BUT THE TOP COMMAND OF THE POLICE WAS SHAKEN UP IN THE WAKE OF THE INCIDENTS. SEVERAL OFFICERS WERE ALSO DROPPED FROM THE POLICE.

4. [REDACTED] WE ARE RELIABLY INFORMED THAT POLICE WERE IN CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORS OF THESE ATTACKS--SPECIFICALLY THE LOCAL BOMB SQUAD. THE ISSUE IS PAY AND THE ARMY HAS STEPPED IN TO STOP ANY REPETITION. THE POLICE ACTION IN CORDOBA IS BY NO MEANS AN EXCLUSIVELY ARGENTINE PHENOMENON. WHAT IS SPECIAL IS THE PERVASIVENESS NOT ONLY WITHIN THE POLICE BUT WITHIN SOCIETY AT LARGE OF THE ATTITUDES THAT UNDERLIE THEM, INCLUDING A CERTAIN ACCEPTANCE OF VIOLENCE AND ARBITRARINESS.

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